

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: THE SOCIALISTS REAFFIRM THEIR TIME-MARKING STANCE

REF: (A) ROME 13469; (B) ROME 13549

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST PSI DIRECTORATE MEETING RESULTS HAVE, SO FAR, CONFIRMED EXPECTATIONS. THOUGH DEBATE ON DEMARTINO'S POLITICAL REMARKS WILL BE CONTINUED IN ANOTHER SESSION, THERE APPEARS TO BE WIDE UNANIMITY FOR CONTINUING DEMARTINO'S TIME-MARKING STANCE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, AND THE COMMUNISTS, AT LEAST UNTIL THE PSI CONGRESS. HOWEVER, CONCERN FOR THE PARTY'S AUTONOMY VIS-A-VIS THE PCI, AND FEAR THAT THE PSI WILL BE REDUCED TO IRRELEVANCE THROUGH A REALIZATION OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE, HAVE CLEARLY RISEN. A SOCIALIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING HAS BEEN SET FOR OCTOBER 15-16 TO PREPARE FOR A PARTY CONGRESS IN LATE JANUARY OF FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALIST (PSI) DIRECTORATE MEETING ADJOURNED LATE SEPTEMBER 19 TO BE CONTINUED AND COMPLETED SOME TIME BEFORE OCTOBER 15-16 WHEN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IS TO BE HELD. REPORTS MAKE CLEAR THAT THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS IS THE "POLITICAL DEBATE." EXACT DATE OF CONGRESS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE SET, BUT NOW EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE

JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.

2. ONLY DEFINITIVE ACTIONS TAKEN BESIDES SCHEDULING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ARE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF TWO RESOLUTIONS. THE FIRST REJECTS THE RESIGNATION AS HEAD OF THE PSI'S SECTION ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NEVOL QUERCI, A FOLLOWER OF LEFT-WING LEADER LOMBARDI. QUERCI HAD RESIGNED IN PROTEST OF THE FORMATION OF "OPEN" CENTER-LEFT ADMINISTRATIONS; HE PREFERRED THE PCI-PSI ALTERNATIVE. THE SECOND RESOLUTION HAILS THE BIRTH OF DISSENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUPS (WHICH MADE POSSIBLE

LEFTIS) SOLUTIONS IN SOME LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, NOTABLY MILAN AND TURIN).

3. OFFICIAL SUMMARY OF DEMARTINO'S ADDRESS REVEALED LITTLE MORE THAN HAD ALREADY LEAKED TO PRESS (ROME 13469). REGARDING MORO'S SPEECH, DEMARTINO SAW MORO'S PROPOSAL OF A "CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE" (CONFRONTO IN THE NEBULOUS ITALIAN TERM) AS A RECOGNITION OF THE NEED, PROPOSED BY THE SOCIALISTS, TO INITIATE A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PCI. HE THEN WENT ON TO DEPLORE MORO'S FAILURE TO GIVE DUE REGARD TO THE SOCIALIST POSITION AND PROBLEMS REAISED BY THE PSI.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE MORO GOVERNMENT, DEMARTINO REAFFIRMED THAT THE PCI WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE TO BRING IT DOWN, BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO JUDGE IT BY ITS ACTIONS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD IT TOLERATE A BREAK WITH THE UNIONS.

5. DEMARTINO ALSO DEFENDED PSI POLICY ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, STATING THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAD ONLY FORMED ADMINISTRATIONS WITH THE PCI AFTER THE DC HAD REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH THE SOCIALIST PROPOSAL OF MAJORITIES MADE UP OF ALL PARTIES EXCEPT EXTREME RIGHT MSI. HE CITED WITH IMPLIED APPROVAL EXAMPLES OF THE "OPEN" CENTER-LEFT. ANY ATTEMPT TO ADHERE TO A RIGID FORMULA, DEMARTINO SAID, "WOULD HAVE IMPEDED THE FORMATION OF DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATIONS, OR WOULD HAVE EXCLUDED THE PSI FROM MAJORITIES."

6. THE INCOMPLETE DEBATE, WHICH LIKE THE FULL TEXT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMARTINO'S REMARKS, IS BEING KEPT OFFICIALLY CONFIDENTIAL, WAS REPORTEDLY LIVELY, BUT FOUND ALL MAJOR LEADERS AGREED IN THE END TO CONTINUE DEMARINTO'S WAITING STRATEGY. THERE WAS NEAR UNANIMITY IN CONDEMNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES.

COMMENT: THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT WAS THE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON PSI AUTONOMY WHICH REFLECTS DEMARTINO'S AND

OTHERS' GROWING CONCERN THAT SOME NEW FORM OF ASSOCIATION
BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE COMMUNISTS MAY LEAVE
THE PSI WITHOUT AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.VOLPE

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